

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-11

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SUBJECT: EDITORIAL ON REDUCTION OF US SUGAR QUOTA

REF: GEORGETOWN 1585

OCTOBER 21 ISSUE OF SUNDAY ARGOSY CARRIED EDITORIAL ATTRIBUTING
DRASTIC REDUCTION IN 1974 US SUGAR QUOTA FOR WEST INDIES TO
RETALATION FOR CARIBBEAN DEFIANCE OF US IN FORGING CLOSER TIES
WITH CUBA. COMPLETE TEXT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE ON THE MERE PRETEXT THAT THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN
SUGAR PRODUCING COUNTRIES HAD DEFAULTED IN THEIR QUOTA SUPPLIES
FOR 1972 AND 1973, THE UNITED STATES SLASHED THEIR SUGAR QUOTA
FOR THE COMING YEAR FROM ABOUT 200,000 TONS TO 23,800 TONS.
IN ACTUAL FACT, THE DEFAULT IN 1972 WAS ABOUT 46,000 TONS WHILE
THAT FOR THIS YEARS IS IN THE VICINITY OF 156,300 TONS. IN BOTH
YEARS, THE DEFAULT WAS DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND THE
CONTROL OF THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES--BAD WEATHER.

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SIGNIFICANTLY, PERU AND BOLIVIA ALSO DEFAULTED IN THEIR SUGAR QUOTAS TO THE UNITED STATES, THOUGH IN THEIR CASE, THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT THOUGHT IT FIT TO SLASH THEIR QUOTAS EVEN THOUGH SHE IS AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THESE TWO COUNTRIES DEFAULTED ON PURPOSE--PREFERRING TO SELL THEIR SUGAR ON THE WORLD MARKET WHERE THEY COULD COMMAND HIGHER PRICES, AT THE THEN (SIC) TIME.

IN AS MUCH AS THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES STOOD BY THE UNITED STATES IN HER TIME OF NEED, BRUSHING ASIDE THE TEMPTATION OF OBTAINING BETTER PRICES ON THE WORLD MARKET WHILE PERU AND BOLIVIA DID NOT FEEL THEMSELVES OBLIGATED TO HONOUR THEIR QUOTA AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES, ONE MUST LOOK FOR REASONS DEEPER THAN THE FAILURE TO MEET THE FULL QUOTA TO DETERMINE WHY IT HAS NOW BEEN SO BRUTALLY SLASHED.

ONE REASON THAT HAS SUGGESTED ITSELF TO POLITICAL OBSERVERS IS THAT IT HAS BEEN SLASHED IN RETALIATION FOR THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN'S DEFINANCE OF THE UNITED STATES' WISHES BY FORGING CLOSER TIES WITH DR. FIDEL CASTRO'S SOCIALIST REPUBLIC--CUBA.

IT IS ONLY TOO WELL KNOWN THAT EVER SINCE FIDEL CASTRO DECLARED CUBA A SOCIALIST REPUBLIC AND MOVED CLOSER TO COMMUNIST RUSSIA, THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN DOING ALL IN ITS POWER TO ISOLATE CUBA FROM THE REST OF THE CARIBBEAN AND SOUTH AMERICAN COMMUNITY, ITS ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE BEING TO DESTROY CUBA'S ECONOMY AND IMPRESS UPON LATIN AMERICA THE CARIBBEAN AND THE UNDEVELOPED WORLD, THAT A SOCIALIST ECONOMY IS BOUND TO END UP IN CHAOS.

IT WOULD SEEM THAT IN SPITE OF U.S.S. BEDEVILMENT OF CUBA, CARIBBEAN LEADERS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY IMPRESSED WITH CASTRO'S PROGRESS. IN ANY CASE, THE NEW CARIBBEAN LEADERSHIP BELIEVES IN THE FREEDOM OF EVERY NATION TO CHARTER ITS OWN DESTINY; THEY BLUNTLY REJECT THE OVERLORDSHIP OF SUPER NATIONS ON THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF SMALLER NATIONS; THEY CONCEDE THE RIGHT TO EVERY NATION TO AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM SUITED TO ITS NEEDS; THEY SEE NO REASON UNCLASSIFIED

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WHY THEY SHOULD CONTENT THEMSELVES WITH REMAINING UNDER THE ECONOMIC STRANGLEHOLD OF SUPER POWERS.

THE UNITED STATES, HOWEVER ONE MAY LOOK AT IT, HAS EXERCISED ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO REDUCE THE CARIBBEAN SUGAR QUOTA. AND NO MATTER HOW TRIVIAL THE EXCUSE FOR DOING SO MAY SOUND, THE FACT MUST BE FACED THAT WHENEVER IT SUITS HER PURPOSE TO APPLY SUCH PRESSURES, SHE WILL NOT HESITATE

TO DO SO. THE ALTERNATIVE LEFT TO THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES IS TO STRIVE TO RENDER THEMSELVES LESS VULNERABLE IN THE COMING YEARS TO THESE PRESSURES.

IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT ALTHOUGH THE UNITED STATES HAS PROCEEDED TO VIGOROUSLY SLASH THE CARIBBEAN SUGAR QUOTA, ON HER OWN, SHE CAN ONLY PRODUCE ABOUT THREE AND ONE-QUARTER MILLION METRIC TONS OF SUGAR PER YEAR, WHILE HER CONSUMPTION IS ABOUT TEN AND ONE-HALF MILLION TONS. FOR HER FULL NEEDS SHE WILL HAVE TO TURN TO THE WORLD MARKET, WHICH IS KEPT SUPPLIED PRIMARILY BY CENTRAL AMERICA(AND THE CARIBBEAN), SOUTH AMERICA, BRAZIL, INDIA, AUSTRALISIA AND AUSTRALIA.

IS IT NOT TIME THAT THESE PRIMARY PRODUCERS OF SUGAR GET TOGETHER AND CONTROL THE WORLD SUGAR MARKET?

AGREED QUOTAS ARE GOOD IN A WAY; BUT WHEN SUPER POWERS FEEL THEMSELVES FREE TO MAKE USE OF THE QUOTA SYSTEM FOR THE CONOMIC STRANGULATION OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR TO CARRY"RETALIATORY" PRESSURE WITH THE PURPOSE OF KEEPING SMALLER COUNTRIES IN LINE IT IS TIME THAT THE PRIMARY PRODUCERS OF THESE RAW MATERIALS GET TOGETHER AND CONTROL THEIR COMMON COMMODITY. UNQUOTE. KING

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